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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SYDNEY 02637 190611Z

13
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /126 W
---------- 027375
R 190530Z NOV 73
FM AMCONSUL SYDNEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4989
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMCONSUL BRISBANE
AMCONSUL PERTH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, AS
SUBJ: NEW SOUTH WALES GENERAL ELECTION

REF: A. SYDNEY 2576, B. SYDNEY 2621

1. AS EXPECTED LIBERAL/COUNTRY PARTY COALITION WON NOV 17 ELECTION AND INCREASED ITS MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT FROM FOUR TO AT LEAST TEN, PERHAPS 12. WHILE THIS VICTORY IS SIGNIFICANT AND IS TO SOME EXTENT A REFLECTION OF DISSATISFACTION WITH FEDERAL LABOR GOVERNMENT IN CANBERRA, IT IS NOT REPEAT NOT THE DEVASTATING BLOW AT THE ALP WHICH LIBERALS HAD HOPED FOR.

2. COALITIONS GAIN IN SEATS WAS PROPORTIONATELY GREATER THAN ITS GAIN IN POPULAR VOTE PARTLY AS RESULT OF GERRY-MANDERING AND PARTLY AS RESULT OF LABORS LOSS OF TWO PERHAPS THREE RURAL-SEATS TO COUNTRY PARTY.

3. LIBERAL/COUNTRY PARTY GOVERNMENT CAMPAIGN WAS NOT A BOLD NEW ONE BUT A STAND PAT CAMPAIGN BASED ON ASKIN'S
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MIXTURE AS BEFORE AND OFFERED NO NEW FACES. THIS WAS

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INEVITABLE IN A CAMPAIGN LED BY ASKIN BUT IT WILL BE EXPECTED THAT ASKIN WILL RESIGN IN 12 TO 18 MONTHS TO BE REPLACED PROBABLY BY EDUCATION MINISTER WILLIS OR JUSTICE MINISTER MADDISON WHO IN TURN WILL BE EXPECTED TO LAUNCH A NEW TEAM AND NEW PROGRAM AT NEXT ELECTION THREE YEARS HENCE.

4. MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS MUST AWAIT FINAL ELECTION RESULTS. HANNAH

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Disposition Authority: golinofr
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